Year	Group B	Group C	Total
1990 . .	2	9	11
1991 . . (upto 31-7-91)	2	6	8
	4	15	19

(b) Departmental action under the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 and/or prosecution in the Courts of Law have been initiated against these personnel.

(c) All these cases are at various stages of enquiry/investigation/prosecution. Pending proceedings are being expedited by close monitoring for early finalisation thereof.

33

Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

380. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an Arbitration award for sanction of a certain amount of conveyance allowance to Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Board of Arbitration has given the Award that the non-gazetted Central Government employees except those who actually enjoy the benefit of free or subsidised transport facility for travel between their residence and place of duty or are in receipt of Conveyance Allowance for that purpose, shall be given a transport subsidy of Rs. 30 (Rupees thirty only) per employee per month. This award was to take effect on and from the 1st day of April, 1989.

(c) The Award was considered by the Government. It was estimated that the implementation of the Award would entail an expenditure of Rs. 176 crores per annum. In the context of need for exercising utmost economy in the Government spending, a recurring expenditure of this size will impose additional burden on the exchequer, which would adversely affect the National economy. It was, therefore, decided to reject the award. A statement to this effect was laid on the Table of the House on the 31st August, 1990. A Resolution to reject the Award will be moved in the House as early as possible, as per the prescribed procedure.

34

Ranking of Indian Banks in World

*381. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Indian banks are among the top one thousand banks in the world;

(b) if so, the names of these banks;

(c) the criteria adopted for ranking these banks in the top list;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to ensure that other banks also come up to this level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the following eight Indian banks figure among the top 1000 banks in the world as per information published in "The Banker" a Financial Times publication, in their July, 1991 issue :—

1. Industrial Development Bank of India
2. State Bank of India
3. Canara Bank
4. Bank of India
5. Export Import Bank of India
6. Punjab National Bank
7. Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank
8. Bank of Baroda

(c) "The Banker" has given the rankings separately in terms of strength, size, soundness and profit performance.

(d) to (f) Various measures have been taken by Government and RBI to improve the capital base, quality of assets, operational efficiency and profitability of the banks. These measures include subscription to the share capital of nationalised banks, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and containment of staff growth. For reinforcing financial viability, the banks have been advised to ensure better credit management, raise productivity and effect economy wherever possible. To provide the competitive edge to banks, new money market instruments like certificates of deposits and commercial papers have been introduced and interest rates on term deposits have been enhanced. Banks have also been permitted to diversify their activities.

Money Laundering

Alleged unauthorised transfer of money

*382. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY
SHRI V. SREENIVAS PRASAD } :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate, Bombay has recently unearthed a super efficient Muscat-to-Bombay cash transfer system as reported in the Times of India of July 13, 1991;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) the details of the arrests, if any, made in this connection; and

(d) the further steps contemplated by the Government in this regard :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Officers of the Enforcement Directorate at Bombay searched two residential premises of Shri Sameer Kader Khisay. As a result of the search Indian currency in cash amounting to Rs. 25,45,000, fifty Bank drafts for a total value of Rs. 3,02,500, foreign currency Omani Riyals 430 and U.S. Dollars 570 were seized, alongwith incriminating documents. Shri Sameer Qader Khisay is alleged to have made payments of about Rs. 15 crores in India over a period of fifteen months, by order or on behalf of persons resident outside India in violation of Section 9 of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. Such payment in India without corresponding inward remittance other than through authorised channels, caused loss of foreign exchange.

(c) Shri Sameer Qader Khisay as well as one Shri Abdul Qayoom Damodi and his employee Shri Mohd. Hussain Damodi, have been arrested under Sec. 35 of the FERA, 1973.

(d) Appropriate action as warranted under the law is being taken.

[*Translation*] 36

Ban on Imports

*383. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the items which have been banned for import keeping in view the economic crisis prevailing in the country;

(b) how long this ban is likely to continue;

(c) whether it is likely to have an adverse impact on industrial production; and

(d) if so, the annual loss of revenue as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No items have been banned for import under the new trade policy, announced on 4th July, 1991. However, unlisted raw materials, components, consumables & spares have been shifted to the Limited Permissible List and the same can now be imported through REP licences.

(d) Does not arise.